

**P**rivate wells can provide a clean, safe source of water if they are properly located, built, and maintained. The location and installation of a well is crucial to protecting water from contamination. Because many factors determine the best location for a well, it is recommended that a certified well water driller perform the job.

To find certified local well drillers in your area, call the Idaho Department of Water Resources at the number listed on the back or check out their website.

## 1 HAVE YOUR WATER TESTED

As a private well owner, it is your responsibility to make sure that your water is safe to use. Pollution from sources such as septic systems, farm animals, farm chemicals and naturally occurring chemicals can pollute your well. At high levels, pollution in your well water can put your family's and animals' health at risk. If you have any question about the safety of your well water, you should have the water tested. Well owners are encouraged to have their well water tested every year.

Have your well water tested at a certified lab. They will tell you how to collect your water sample. For a list of labs, contact your regional Idaho Department of Environmental Quality office (numbers are on back of this brochure).

## 2 WHAT TO TEST FOR

A good start to water testing usually begins with a bacteria test and a nitrate test. These tests give you a starting point to see if your water quality is good. Other items that are recommended to test for are: arsenic, lead, fluoride and alpha/beta.

You can contact your local health department or the Department of Environmental Quality (the phone numbers are on the back of this brochure) to get information about water pollution that is a concern in your area. They can also help you interpret the testing results and assist you with other questions you may have

## 3 FIX ANY PROBLEMS

If you learn your well water is polluted, fix the problem as soon as possible. You may need to disinfect your water, have a new well drilled, replumb or repair your system. Consult a certified well driller for help. You might consider installing a water treatment device to remove pollutants. There are many home water treatment devices. Different types remove different pollutants. Get a copy of the Environmental Protection Agency's "Home Water Treatment Units" pamphlet by calling (800) 426-4791.

## 4 MAINTAIN YOUR WELL

Annual well maintenance is essential to keep your water safe. Well owners are encouraged to periodically check to make sure their well is functioning properly, and repair their system as soon as a problem is discovered. Proper well maintenance should include checking the well covering, casing, and well cap for cracks and other entry points for potential pollutants. Every 10 years have the pump, storage tank, pipes and valves, and water flow inspected by a certified well driller. When the well is no longer in use, make sure it is closed by a licensed well driller.

To help keep track of maintenance, it is recommended that you create and maintain a "well maintenance log." The log should include the location of the well, construction and contractor details, as well as results of any water tests.



**WHO TO CONTACT FOR INFORMATION  
ABOUT GETTING YOUR WELL TESTED.**

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTACT  
INFORMATION**

Coeur d'Alene 415-5200  
[www2.state.id.us/phd1](http://www2.state.id.us/phd1)  
(serving Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai  
and Shoshone counties)

Lewiston 799-3100  
[www.ncdhd.us](http://www.ncdhd.us)  
(serving Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez  
Perce counties)

Caldwell 455-5400  
[www.publichealthidaho.com](http://www.publichealthidaho.com)  
(serving Adams, Canyon, Gem, Owyhee, Payette  
and Washington counties)

Boise 375-5211  
[www.cdhd.idaho.gov](http://www.cdhd.idaho.gov)  
(serving Ada, Boise, Elmore and Valley counties)

Twin Falls 734-5900  
[www.phd5.idaho.gov](http://www.phd5.idaho.gov)  
(serving Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome,  
Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls counties)

Pocatello 233-9080  
[www2.state.id.us/phd6](http://www2.state.id.us/phd6)  
(serving Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou,  
Franklin, Oneida, and Power counties)

Idaho Falls 522-0310  
[www2.state.id.us/phd7](http://www2.state.id.us/phd7)  
(serving Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont,  
Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton counties)

**WHO TO CALL FOR INFORMATION ABOUT  
CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN IN YOUR  
AREA.**

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
State office, Boise, 373-0502,  
[www.deq.idaho.gov](http://www.deq.idaho.gov)

**WHO TO CALL FOR INFORMATION ABOUT  
WELL DRILLING.**

Idaho Department of Water Resources  
Ground Water Protection Section, Boise: 287-4800  
[www.idwr.idaho.gov](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov)

**WHO TO CALL FOR INFORMATION ABOUT  
PESTICIDES AND AGRICULTURE CONCERNS.**

Idaho Department of Agriculture  
Water Program  
Boise Office 332-8597  
[www.idahoag.us](http://www.idahoag.us)

**WHO TO CALL FOR ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION AND RESOURCES ON HEALTH  
RELATED ISSUES.**

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare  
Bureau of Community and Environmental Health  
1-866-240-3553  
[bceh@idhw.state.id.us](mailto:bceh@idhw.state.id.us)

**IT WILL  
NEVER BE  
THIS OBVIOUS**



**FOUR STEPS TO  
WELL WATER SAFETY**